

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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NOTICES AND REPORTS

A New Unit of the California Medical Association—

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC AGENCIES COMMITTEE

The Public Health and Public Agencies Committee was created by unanimous vote of the Council at its regular meeting in San Francisco on Sunday, November 20, 1949.

PURPOSES AND SCOPE

To keep in constant touch with local, state and federal health departments and health officers, and to carry out the stated policies of the California Medical Association with respect to all functions of these health agencies, specifically including hospital construction financing, state aid to local health departments, crippled children's services, chronic disease activities and services, rheumatic heart disease financial aid, health center activities, and all other statutory functions of local, state or federal health agencies in California; to keep in constant touch with and to carry out the policies of the California Medical Association with respect to all medical activities and programs of other federal, state and local agencies, including the State Department of Education, State Department of Social Welfare, State Department of Employment, Vocational Rehabilitation Service, governmental care of the indigent, federal medical care to veterans, and all other federal, state or local government agencies in California that undertake activities relating to medical care.

GENERAL POLICY

In carrying out its functions, the committee shall constantly bear in mind that the California Medical Association approves and supports effective and efficient public health services in the field of public health (hygiene, sanitation, quarantine and other measures to prevent communicable diseases, vital statistics, pure food and drug enforcement, water supplies, abatement of public nuisances, etc.), but opposes the extension of public health services into the field of diagnosis or treatment of individuals who are not, through lack of resources, properly wards of the government, on the ground that it is contrary to the public interest to socialize medical care in California through step-by-step extension of public health activities.

COMPOSITION

The Council's permanent Committee on Public Health and Public Agencies shall consist of three members of the Council, plus the Chairman of the Council and the Secretary ex officio, with the right to vote. The committee shall select its own chairman and shall have the power to delegate the various phases of its duties to sub-committees appointed by it. The membership of sub-committees may include any member of the Association.

SUB-COMMITTEES

The Council directed that the existing committees on:

- (a) Liaison with Conference of Local Health Officers,
- (b) Hospital Construction, and
- (c) Chronic Diseases

be continued as sub-committees until the next Annual Session. It is the recommendation of the Council that these sub-committees should continue to function, but in closer cooperation with each other and with the parent committee. The Council appointed the following members of the Committee on Public Health and Public Agencies: L. A. Alesen, chairman, C. V. Thompson, F. E. West, the Council Chairman and the Secretary.

The following are the members of the other committees:

Liaison with Local Health Officers: Doctors Shipman, Wilbur, Alesen and Askey.

Hospital Construction: Doctors Thompson and Anderson and Mr. Hassard.

Chronic Diseases: Doctors Bruck, Graeser and Howson.

Executive Committee Minutes

Tentative Draft: Minutes of the 219th Meeting of the Executive Committee, San Francisco, February 16, 1950.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman MacLean at 2:00 p.m. in Room 212 of the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, on Thursday, February 16, 1950.

Roll Call:

Present were President-Elect Cass, Speaker Aleson, Council Chairman Shipman, Auditing Committee Chairman MacLean and Secretary Garland. Present by invitation were Executive Secretary Hunton, Assistant Executive Secretary Wheeler and Legal Counsel Hassard. A quorum present and acting.

1. Legislative Service:

On motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to continue a subscription of \$500 annually to a reporting and information service in Washington, D. C.

2. Vocational Rehabilitation:

Discussion was held on the manner in which examinations and diagnostic procedures are undertaken under the program of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation of the State Department of Education. It was pointed out that some procedural changes had been made to provide a limit to the amount of diagnostic procedures to be undertaken prior to application of a means test and it was agreed that representatives of the bureau be invited to address the next meeting of the Council.

3. Hospital Construction:

Discussion was held on the wording of the Statement on Hospital Construction approved by the Council at its meeting of January 14, 1950, and it was agreed that copies of this statement to be distributed in the future be amended so that in Paragraph 8 the words "immediately opens" be deleted and the words "tends to open" be substituted therefor.

4. Health Councils:

A proposal by Dr. Carroll B. Andrews, chairman of the Committee on Rural Health, for the establishment of local health councils was discussed. It was agreed to ask Dr. Andrews to prepare an outline of procedure for discussion at the next Council meeting and to enlist the services of the Woman's Auxiliary in inaugurating this program throughout the state.

5. Auditor for C.M.A.:

The selection of an auditor to examine the books of the Association was discussed and it was regularly moved, seconded and voted to defer such selection for further discussion at the discretion of the chairman.

6. C.P.S. Fee Schedule Committee:

Dr. Shipman, Council Chairman, announced the receipt of the resignation of Dr. William L. Bender from the C.P.S. Fee Schedule Committee because of the weight of other duties. It was regularly moved, seconded and voted to accept this resignation with regret and to approve the appointments of Dr. Harold M. F. Behneman as chairman and Dr. William C. Mumler as a member of this committee.

7. Industrial Medical Fees:

After discussion, it was regularly moved, seconded and voted to request the Council Chairman to add geographical representation to the Advisory Committee to the Negotiating Committee on Industrial Medical Practice. It was also agreed to arrange for a meeting of the Negotiating Committee and all interested parties at noon on April 30, opening day of the 1950 Annual Session in San Diego.

8. Employee Annuities:

The proposal of an insurance underwriter for the issuance of additional insurance on the lives of the Association employees was discussed and it was regularly moved, seconded and voted to advise him that no action is contemplated at this time.

9. Los Angeles Anatomical Institute:

The request of the Los Angeles Anatomical Institute for approval by the Association was discussed and it was agreed to give further consideration to this request.

10. New Mexico Physicians' Service:

Mr. Hunton reported on his visit to New Mexico, where he attended a meeting of the board of directors of New Mexico Physicians' Service and officials of Business Men's Assurance Co., the insurance carrier with which the physicians of New Mexico are now working to provide a prepayment medical care service. The present financial outlook appears to provide about a 40 per cent to 50 per cent repayment to the C.M.A. of funds owed by N.M.P.S. and it is possible that an extension of the working agreement with Business Men's Assurance Co. and with other insurance carriers may produce enough revenue to allow full payment of the funds loaned.

11. Public Relations:

It was regularly moved, seconded and voted to approve the support of a speaking tour of Mr. Cecil Palmer and to allow for necessary travel expenses of Drs. M. Laurence Montgomery and Richard O. Bullis, co-representatives of the national education campaign, the total of these items to come to not more than \$1,000.

12. Committee on Chronic Diseases:

It was regularly moved, seconded and voted to appoint Dr. Robertson Ward of San Francisco as co-chairman of the Committee on Chronic Diseases (E. L. Bruck, chairman; Carl Howson and James E. Graeser, members).

Adjournment.

Resolution on Voluntary Welfare Agencies

Adopted by the Council of the California Medical Association, November 20, 1949

Whereas, Numerous organizations devoted to the control of certain serious diseases are now in existence and others devoted to related purposes are in process of development, all tending to duplicate the work of existing public and semi-public agencies, and

Whereas, The programs of these groups frequently require the performance of free medical services, which physicians are happy to contribute so long as the programs are fundamentally sound, and

Whereas, There has grown up some duplication of effort in these programs which detracts from their medical and economic soundness, and

Whereas, Some of these programs already significantly influence the practice of medicine and may, if unchecked, lead to the socialization of the profession; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the California Medical Association on and after July 1, 1950, shall require review by the Council of all programs of the above type which are conducted in this state and which depend on the services of the medical profession for their successful operation, said review to be obtained within six months of the effective date of this resolution.

POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES

1. There should be an adequate number of physicians on the Governing Board of the Agency in order to render sound medical guidance. There should be a segregation of functions of the Board,

and that portion of the Board or sub-committee of the Board dealing with medical problems should have at least 50 per cent of its members chosen from practicing physicians licensed in the territory or state in which the agency functions or proposes to function. Participation by members of allied professions should be encouraged (dentists, nurses, public health workers, veterinarians, etc.).

2. The program should be designed so as *not to duplicate existing approved* welfare programs of the type contemplated. In this connection, established medical welfare agencies whose objectives duplicate each other should be encouraged to consolidate their work into one agency.

3. Education concerning disease, its prevention, early diagnosis and treatment should be the basic objective of such programs. An informed public tends to be an educated and discriminating public. *The basic objective of the program should be adequate education* in the public schools, and various adult associations in regard to the disease in question, its prevention, early diagnosis and care.

4. The group should not embark upon diagnostic or therapeutic ventures amongst those sections of the public not classified as needy or indigent, with the exception of communicable disease programs. The policy of the group should be that measures leading to the *further socialization of medicine be avoided*.

5. The overhead and number of paid employees of the group, professional or lay, shall be kept to a minimum consistent with efficient operation of the program. Financial details concerning the operation of such programs should be readily available to interested persons.

In Memoriam

ARMSTRONG, EUGENE LAWSON. Died in Los Angeles, January 25, 1950, aged 53, of cerebral hemorrhage. Graduate of Tulane University of Louisiana School of Medicine, New Orleans, 1920. Licensed in California in 1922. Dr. Armstrong was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

KANE, LOUIS MATTHEW. Died in Los Angeles, February 8, 1950, aged 65, of a heart ailment. Graduate of Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, 1912. Licensed in California in 1914. Dr. Kane was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

REEVES, JAMES WALTER. Died in Los Angeles, January 28, 1950, aged 64. Graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, 1913. Licensed in California in 1913. Dr. Reeves was a member of the Los Angeles County Med-

ical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

SHRYOCK, ALFRED QUIMBY. Died in Loma Linda, January 3, 1950, aged 78, of cerebral thrombosis. Graduate of the American Medical Missionary College, Battle Creek, 1899. Licensed in California in 1911. Dr. Shryock was a retired member of the San Bernardino County Medical Society, and the California Medical Association.

SUMERLIN, HAROLD STANLEY. Died in Los Angeles, January 31, 1950, aged 58. Graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine, Bloomington-Indianapolis, 1917. Licensed in California in 1924. Dr. Sumerlin was a member of the San Diego County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

UHL, RUSSELL TODD. Died in Los Angeles, January 31, 1950, aged 61. Graduate of the University Medical College of Kansas City, 1911. Licensed in California in 1925. Dr. Uhl was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.